

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 5 - 16, with the following:

FIGS. 1-3 depict the improved disposable lancet 10 in the "as manufactured" configuration. More particularly, body 20 and cap 40 are integrally molded in surrounding relation with sterilized needle shaft 30 and piercing tip 32 during the manufacturing process. As best depicted in FIG. 1, the portion of the needle that projects from the distal end 24 of body 20, namely piercing tip 32 is embedded within cap 40 and frangible junction 50. This configuration maintains needle 30 and particularly piercing tip 32 in a protective environment thereby preventing contamination during post manufacturing packaging, shipping, and storage. Cap 40 includes an inner axially projecting post ~~hub~~ 46 that receives the distal end of piercing tip 32 embedded therein in the pre-use, "as manufactured" configuration. Accordingly, the relative length of the projecting portion of piercing tip 32 is less than the combined length of frangible junction 50 and the top portion of cap 40 including projecting post ~~hub~~ 46.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 3 - 19, with the following:

Cap 40 is also adapted to frictionally engage the distal end 24 of body 20 when cap 40 is reinstalled as shown in FIGS. 5-7 after lancet 10 is used so as to prevent blood from coming in contact with other persons and to help insure that no further contact is made with piercing tip 32. FIG. 5 depicts the cup-shaped cap positioned relative to body 20 prior to frictional engagement with the distal end 24 of body 20. Cap 40 is inverted relative to the pre-use configuration depicted in FIGS. 1-3, and aligned for engagement with body 20. Cap 40 includes an interior surface that defines an annular shoulder, referenced as 44. Cap shoulder 44 provides a stop surface that contacts the distal end 24 when body 20 is insertably engaged therewith. As previously discussed, cap 40 includes an inner axially projecting post ~~hub~~ 46 that receives the distal end of piercing tip 32 embedded therein in the pre-use, "as manufactured" configuration as depicted in FIGS. 1-3. Post ~~Hub~~ 46 further functions to frictionally receive a portion of needle piercing tip 32 embedded therein when cap 40 is placed post-use onto the distal end 24 of body 20 as best illustrated in FIG. 6. Accordingly, cap 40 is securely maintained on body 20 by frictional engagement at multiple contact points, namely, between needle tip 32 and post ~~hub~~ 46, and between the inner circumferential side edge of cap 40 and the outer circumferential side edge of distal end 24 of body 20.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 20 and ending on page 8, line 5, with the following:

As should now be apparent, lancet 10 may be used by first disengaging cap 40 from body 20 wherein removal of the cap is accomplished by grasping cap tabs 42 and twisting so as to break frangible junction 50 thereby freeing cap 40 for separation and exposing piercing tip 32 of needle 30. Thereafter, lancet 10 may be used to puncture a person's skin either with or without the aid of a mechanical apparatus. After use, cap 40 is positioned as depicted in FIG. 5 and placed over distal end 24 of body 20 and pushed downward onto the lancet body such that the contaminated tip 32 pierces post ~~hub~~ 46 until cap shoulder 44 engages distal body end 24 thereby so as to stop further movement and terminate the capping procedure.